

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU



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MFL-6020
8 Sep 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--August 1986

I. GENERAL

Although the summer will probably officially end before we carry each other over the thresholds of our new housing, our little community by the sea should be ready by mid to late September. As the houses get closer to completion and people can appreciate even more how attractive they are, our "neighborhood" came in for a little negative publicity this month. At a recent city commission meeting, some concerned citizens complained that the concrete buoy marking the official southernmost point of the continental United States, which is next door to us, was a "place of iniquity" where people indulge in "numerous illicit, immoral and dangerous acts." It is to be hoped that the fence separating us from all this "lewd behavior, nudity, drinking, and smoking of illicit substances" will suffice to ward off temptation.

Part of the picture of our Boca Chica remote antenna site came into sharper focus this month as our antenna contractor--Dynalectron--figured out a cost for the material and labor needed to give us a turn-key operation--\$4,472. In addition, the Navy people who own the transmitter site where our equipment will be kept gave us the OK to operate out of their building. We must now await the Southern Division of the Naval Facilities Command in Charleston to rule on our proposed land-use agreement which we need before going ahead with the project. The Naval command here said not to expect anything before October.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Despite one of the slowest months in the bureau's history--only 89,240 publishable words--we still had an eventful time marked by the hoopla surrounding the Great Bearded One's 60th birthday on 13 August. In addition to celebrating his birthday complete with Order of Lenin, Fidel struck a note for nuclear power by responding to Florida Congressman Bilirakis'

concerns over the new Cienfuegos nuclear power plant. Also in our August file was a major news story on the defection to Cuba of a U.S. Army private who had deserted his post in Stuttgart. Cuban TV aired a 16 August press conference by the deserter who claimed to be a doctor and who had more than a few unpleasant things to say about U.S. policy in Latin America. In addition to these developments, Cuba began nominating candidates to the People's Government Municipal Assemblies. All this means that elections throughout the island are not far behind.

In Jamaica, the economic situation continued to worsen. Following the July municipal election upset, Michael Manley appears to be assured a return to the premiership when Prime Minister Seaga finally gives in and holds elections.

In Grenada, Prime Minister Blaize's health was the focus of attention of all politicians vying for his post. In addition, the trial of former New Jewel Movement government officials picked up some speed. And surprise of surprises, former Deputy Prime Minister Coard and other military officers involved in the 1983 assassination of Prime Minister Bishop accused the U.S. of masterminding the trial.

The bureau's coverage of Suriname increased significantly at the beginning of the month when Paramaribo International Service expanded its English-language newscast from 4 to 10 minutes and from Monday-Wednesday-Friday to Monday through Friday. Reception of the newscast continues to be fair via a leased Brazilian 250-kilowatt shortwave transmitter.

Elsewhere in the Caribbean basin, the dog days of August slowed down much of the action in the news, except for various announcements that most everybody would be attending the Harare summit of nonaligned countries.

In Mexico, the debt moratorium question that once dominated the news now appears to be all but a mute issue on our NOTIMEX ticker.

B. Communications

Bureau frustration over several slipups by the Navy Communications Group this month rose in tandem with our blistering August temperatures. We were beginning to think we were snakebit following one example after another of inattentive Navy personnel failing to proceed at anything but a snail's pace in entering some of our high-precedence traffic into Autodin. Some new arrangements with the Navy hopefully will cut back on the problems caused by the torn-tape relay at Boca Chica.

When it was not the Navy causing us delays, it was construction crews slowing us down. As a follow-up to the 31

July 12-hour outage, we went down for 8 hours on 12 August after a backhoe chopped through Ma Bell's fiber optics telephone lines a second time in two weeks, cutting all commo south of Summerland Key.

C. Technical

BACH proved to be a fickle friend this month, tantalizing us with its capabilities and then frustrating us with problems which ADD thinks are hard-disk related. Despite these problems, which remain to be fully resolved, our monitor/editors and teletypists are true believers so long as the system stays up and running.

The bureau is looking into a proposal by the Caribbean News Agency that we consider a new "mailbox" service allowing us on-line access to designated CANA material via a modem connection. All we would have to do is dial any of a series of computer ports at CANA headquarters in Barbados to retrieve what we are looking for. In addition to avoiding the circuitous route the ticker now follows from Barbados to Bermuda to New York to Miami to here via Reuter and RCA carriers (which has proven more than a bit unreliable lately), we could focus on just the stories we want and avoid all those endless cricket scores. Although cost would be about the same for the main service (about \$7K a year), telephone costs would be separate and may be prohibitive. Right now we pay about \$11K annually for everything.

Dynalectron finally received the replacement parts for our Hermes antenna this month from Nova Scotia and hopes to have everything installed and working in September. Parts, shipment, and labor will total \$2,914.

D. Cruising

Cruising Monitor [] and Engineer [] spent several days at ESG's request experimenting with the QRL Interference Suppressor in combination with various bureau antennas to try to improve reception of Haiti's Radio Soleil. The experiment, which tried to eliminate or attenuate the sideband splatter caused by Radio Marti, resulted in no combinations that provided better reception of Radio Soleil than what is currently available from the bureau's "temporary" beverage antenna.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Our recruiting efforts paid off this month as two well-qualified candidates, [] of Connecticut and

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[redacted] of Chicago, were both put into processing as Spanish monitors following tests here. We were also favorably impressed enough with a local person, [redacted] to offer her a part-time monitorial contract position. In addition, we have several other candidates scheduled for testing in September for our two openings.

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Staff monitor [redacted] departed Key West PCS on 2 September following a 3-year tour at the bureau.

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B. Building and Grounds

Per the recommendations of an OMS Safety Survey earlier this summer, the bureau hired a local electrician to do some rewiring work. As a result, we now have independent circuitry to power the modems used with our press agency and commo lines as well as some newly installed ground fault interrupters to prevent people from getting nasty shocks. In addition, the electrician rebalanced our power system to make sure our auxiliary generator, which is nearing the limits of its capacity, functions properly.

C. Other

B&F Officer [redacted] simplified our bookkeeping during his 11-13 August visit to the bureau, eliminating one of our Dickensian ledger books and providing valuable tips to ensure accuracy in our accounts. He also conducted a mini-audit while here.

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IV. VISITORS

1. [redacted] B&F, 11-13 August.
2. [redacted] former FBIS Admin officer, 12 August.
3. [redacted] C/ESG, 14-16 August.
4. [redacted] Spanish monitor candidates, 19-21 August.
5. [redacted] Spanish monitor candidate, 25-27 August.
6. Bob McKinney, FCC engineer from Ft Lauderdale, 26 August.
7. [redacted] security officer, 27-28 August.

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V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

To a Redskin supporter, the following Miami Herald story found a sympathetic audience:

One Teensy Little Criticism Regarding South Florida

I think people down here tend to be just a tad obsessive about the Miami Dolphins.

Already I can hear you concerned Dolfans out there, telling each other: "WHAT?! OBSESSIVE? US? How DARE he say that!! Let's go SET FIRE TO HIS BODY!!!"

This is understandable. When there is only one professional sports team in an area, people are going to develop a powerful and perhaps unhealthy attachment to it. It's similar to the situation where primitive tribal persons are living on a remote Pacific Island, and they've never been exposed to the outside world, so that when an ordinary object, such as a packing crate, washes up on the beach, they are very impressed and they worship it. And while I would never in a million jillion years compare Don Shula, who is, no question about it, the finest human

being on the face of the planet, to a packing crate, I nevertheless feel he wields an unnatural amount of power down here, in the sense that he could simply announce tomorrow that he wanted to be our U.S. senator, or for that matter *both* of our U.S. senators, and by God he would be.

I grant you that, so far, Shula has used this power wisely. But what if he flips out? What if one day he goes on TV and says, "We're still very weak in our defensive secondary, so I'm asking all our fans to eat spiders." You know they'd do it, and what's more they'd be portrayed favorably on the TV news. "We're here at a bar in Kendall," the On-Location Reporter would say, "and as you can see, these Dolfans are really getting behind their team and eating spiders!" And back in the studio, the anchorpersons would be grinning like an entire lobotomy ward. ■

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Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachment:

Production Report
Commo Outage

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

Keys News

Thursday, August 14, 1986

The Miami Herald

Section B

Cable cut again,

hanging up Lower Keys

'This was just purely a coincidence.
It's something we try to avoid.'

Stephanie Huntsinger, Southern Bell spokesman

By SUSAN ORNSTEIN
Herald Staff Writer

For the second time in two weeks, Key West this week was in a world of its own — though not of its own making. Southern Bell spokesmen said Wednesday that thousands of islanders were cut off from calling north for seven hours Tuesday when the fiber-optics cable to the mainland was severed.

A construction crew working on Summerland Key at mile marker 24 inadvertently cut the multimillion-dollar cable, Southern Bell spokesman Stephanie Huntsinger said. On July 31, another construction crew cut the cable

at Lower Matecumbe Beach, stifling conversations across the gap for nine hours until the cut was repaired.

"This was just purely a coincidence" that the events happened so close together, Huntsinger said. "It's something we try to avoid. We have a number to call to find out where our cables are [buried]," she said.

The Tuesday mishap left Key West and Summerland and Sugarloaf keys isolated.

Customers on those islands could call each other, but could not call out of the local dialing area or receive calls from outside the area. Customers who tried

to dial long distance, or to more northerly Keys, were greeted by a faster-than-usual busy signal or by a voice message saying all circuits were busy.

Phone service was cut off around 1:25 p.m. and restored at 8:30 p.m., Huntsinger said.

Until Southern Bell completes an investigation of the incident, it will not disclose the construction crew involved, she said.

"If we find they're responsible, of course we're going to ask to be compensated for the repair," she said.

The construction crew responsible for gouging a hole in the cable on July 31 was working for the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority. FKAA is being billed for repairs, Southern Bell spokesmen said.

No estimate of damages in either incident was available.

Spokesmen and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and the Key West Police Department said Tuesday they were swamped by calls from people asking about the phone snafu. The phone company serves approximately 30,000 customers in Monroe County, spokesmen said.

KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 89,240

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 357

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 22,080

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	2,575	14,700	21
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	MIN	MIN	ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>110</u>		
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Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>36,190</u>	
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Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
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BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>		
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Belize Times in English			<u>370</u>
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CUBA

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish	<u>3,980</u>		
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Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish	<u>4,370</u>		
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Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>900</u>		
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Havana Radio Periodico Del Aire in Spanish	<u>680</u>		
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KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 1986

CUBA

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>7,730</u>
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Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish	<u>5,570</u>
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Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>
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Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>2,850</u>
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish	<u>330</u>
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Santo Domingo Radio Antillas Network in Spanish	<u>970</u>
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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u>-0-</u>
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JAMAICA

Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>670</u>
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Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English	<u>440</u>
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Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English	<u>-0-</u>
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MEXICO

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>19,060</u>
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NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>1,900</u>
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THE NETHERLANDS

Hilversum International in English	<u>190</u>
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SURINAME

Paramaribo International Service in English	<u>2,930</u>
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OTHER SOURCES: NONE